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FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BEIJING 17436

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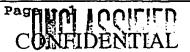
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PREL, PGOV, PHUM, SOCI, CH

SUBJECT: TFCH01: SITREP NO. 65, JUNE 27, 1700 LOCAL

1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE CALLED IN THE EMBASSY'S DATT JUNE 26 TO DELIVER CHINA'S OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO U.S. MILITARY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: PAUL F. GARDNER DATE/CASE ID: 26 JUN 1998 199604320



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SANCTIONS. THE CHINESE TOOK A MEASURED RESPONSE, SUSPENDING HIGH LEVEL BILATERAL VISITS, CANCELLING INVITATIONS TO THE EMBASSY DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE, AND BOYCOTTING ANY INVITATIONS FROM DAO. CHINESE MILITARY OFFICIALS EMPHASIZED LONG-TERM BILATERAL MILITARY RELATIONS.

- 3. SHANGHAI RAILWAY SECURITY OFFICIALS CONFIRMED TO CONSULATE GENERAL SHANGHAI THAT A TRAIN WAS BLOWN UP THE NIGHT OF JUNE 26 KILLING TWENTY PEOPLE AND INJURING ELEVEN. THE ATTACK MAY HAVE BEEN IN RESPONSE TO THE EXECUTION LAST WEEK OF THREE PEOPLE FOR BURNING A TRAIN.
- 4. DUE TO CONTINUING ARRESTS OF STAFF AT THE SHANGHAI WORLD ECONOMIC HERALD, THE NEWSPAPER WILL NOT REAPPEAR AGAIN. THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS WILL MEET THIS THURSDAY TO DISCUSS THE COMMUNIQUE RECENTLY PASSED BY THE FOURTH PLENUM OF THE 13TH CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND OTHER ISSUES. THE LOCAL PRESS HAS ATTACKED THE STUDENT HUNGER STRIKE AS A PLOY TO EXPAND THE DEMONSTRATIONS. MORE SHOTS WERE FIRED AT A CHECKPOINT ON JUNE 27. A LATIN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT CONFIDENTIAL

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HAS INFORMED US THAT ALL CHINESE AMBASSADORS ABROAD HAVE BEEN RECALLED TO BEIJING FOR A MEETING ON JULY 7. END SUMMARY.

CHINESE MILITARY REACTS TO U.S. SANCTIONS

- THE EMBASSY DATT WAS CALLED INTO THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUREAU (MND/FAB) ON JUNE 26, TO RECEIVE CHINA'S OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO U.S. MILITARY SANCTIONS. THIS WAS THE FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING WITH MND/FAB SINCE MAY 20. DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF MNL/FAB MAJOR GENERAL CHEN XIANMOU, READING FROM A PREPARED TEXT, STRONGLY PROTESTED RECENT U.S. MILITARY SANCTIONS AND SAID THAT, IN RESPONSE, CHINA WILL DISCONTINUE THE PLANNED VISITS OF U.S. ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL VUONO, MARINE CORPS COMMANDANT GENERAL GRAY, AND GENERAL TEMPLE OF THE NATIONAL IN ADDITION, THE PRC WILL DISCONTINUE EXCHANGES OF MILITARY PERSONNEL WITH THE U.S. CHINA WILL ALSO SUSPEND ANY CHINESE INVITATIONS TO USDAO. ALL INVITATIONS BY THE U.S. SIDE "WILL BE BOYCOTTED" AS WELL.
- 6. DAO COMMENTS THAT CHINA APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN A MEASURED RESPONSE TO U.S. SANCTIONS. MG CHEN DID NOT ADOPT A CONFRONTATIONAL ATTITUDE AND EMPHASIZED THAT

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BOTH SIDES SHOULD TAKE A LONG-TERM VIEW OF THE MILITARY RELATIONSHIP. AFTER THE MEETING THREE NEW DAO ATTACHES HAD THEIR ACCREDITATION MEETING.

TRAIN EXPLOSION IN SHANGHAI

7. SHANGHAI RAILWAY SECURITY OFFICIALS CONFIRMED TO CONSULATE GENERAL SHANGHAI THAT A TRAIN IN THE SHANGHAI AREA WAS BLOWN UP AT 2300 HOURS LOCAL TIME ON JUNE 26. TWENTY PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND ELEVEN

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1963

INFO AIT TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8629

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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WERE INJURED. THE TRAIN WAS COMING FROM HANGZHOU. OUR CONSULATE SPECULATES THAT THE ATTACK MAY HAVE BEEN IN RESPONSE TO THE EXECUTION LAST WEEK OF THREE MEN ACCUSED OF BURNING A SHANGHAI TRAIN. THE CONSULATE OBSERVES THAT WHILE THEY MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED THE "OTHER SHOE TO DROP", THEY DID NOT EXPECT IT TO DROP SO SOON.

WORLD ECONOMIC HEARLD MAY NOT REAPPEAR AGAIN

8. CONSULATE GENERAL SHANGHAI (SHANGHAI 4604)
REPORTS THAT THE WORLD ECONOMIC HERALD IS NOT
EXPECTED TO REAPPEAR AGAIN BECAUSE SO MANY STAFFERS
AND EDITORIAL STAFF WHO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. ITS
EDITOR, QIN BENLI, WHO WAS SACKED BY THEN SHANGHAI
PARTY CHIEF JIANG ZEMIN, IS NOW UNDER FORMAL
INVESTIGATION.

NPC TO MEET JUNE 29

9. NPC CHAIRMAN WAN LI ANNOUNCED JUNE 26 THAT THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE SEVENTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS WILL MEET FOR THE EIGHTH TIME ON THURSDAY, JUNE 29. THE NPC IS EXPECTED TO LEND ITS SUPPORT TO THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED FOURTH PLENUM OF THE THIRTEENTH CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CPC. THE STANDING COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO "EXAMINE AND APPROVE A DRAFT LAW ON RALLIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE STATE COUNCIL, AND HEAR A REPORT ON 1988'S FINAL STATE ACCOUNTS." ACCORDING THE JUNE 27 ENGLISH LANGUAGE CHINA DAILY, CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSIDERATION OF A NEW PRESS LAW WILL BE POSTPONED IN ORDER TO DRAW ON THE "EXPERIENCE AND LESSONS OF THE PRESS' GUIDING ROLE IN QUELLING THE RECENT TURMOILS."

/ HUNGER STRIKERS AS POLITICAL BLACKMAIL, AUTHORITIES

CHARGE

10. THE JUNE 27 BEIJING DAILY CARRIED ON ITS FRONT PAGE AN ARTICLE ATTACKING THE STUDENT LEADERS FOR USING THE HUNGER STRIKE AS A FORM OF "POLITICAL BLACKMIAL". QUOTING CHINESE RED CROSS OFFICIALS, THE ARTICLE SAYS THE STUDENT LEADERS "DID NOT CARE ABOUT THE HEALTH OF THE STUDENT HUNGER STRIKERS, AND PURPOSELY PROCRASTINATED HELPING THE HUNGER STRIKING STUDENTS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAGNIFYING THE

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SITUATION, TO DECEIVE PUBLIC OPINION AND THE MASSES."

MORE SHOTS FIRED ______

11. AFTER MIDNIGHT ON JUNE 27, AN AMCIT BUSINESSMAN RESIDENT IN BEIJING HAD JUST CLEARED A PLA ROADBLOCK CHECK WHEN HIS CAR BACKFIRED. PLA SOLDIERS FIRED THREE ROUNDS IN WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN WARNING THE AMCIT IMMEDIATELY STOPPED HIS CAR AND GOT OUT. THE PLA SOLDIERS SEARCHED THE CAR AND LATER ALLOWED HIM TO PROCEED.

CHINESE AMBASSADORS RECALLED HOME FOR CONSULTATIONS _____/__/__/__/__/

12. ACCORDING TO A USUALLY RELIABLE LATIN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT, ALL CHINESE AMBASSADORS ABROAD ARE RETURNING TO BEIJING TO ATTEND A MEETING SCHEDULED

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AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

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SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CHENGDU POUCH)

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FOR JULY 7.

13. POST WOULD LIKE TO DRAW ATTENTION TO CONSULATE

GENERAL SHANGHAI'S EXCELLENT ANALYSIS

AS WELL

AS OUR OWN COMMENTS ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RECENT MEETING OF THE FOURTH PLENUM OF THE THIRTEENTH CENTRAL COMMITTEE (BEIJING 17175).

LILLEY